

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a complete summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the legislative, judicial and administrative spheres, and the other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# FREE L. BOD

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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### NON-PARTISAN PLAN USED; PARTY SPIRIT GONE

The senate, in executive session, approved the president's appointment of Thomas F. Woodcock as member of the Commerce Committee. Party lines were ignored. The vote was 52 to 25. The roll call was not made public. Regardless of claims for and against the appointee, this non-partisan vote should be of interest to trade unionists and other forward-looking citizens who are preparing to engage in the fall elections.

Citizens are continually lectured on the need for our party system and the indispensable part it plays in our government.

This, however, is for public consumption—it is not practiced by its champions.

Partisanship in this congress—especially in the senate—is unknown. In the house Cannonism rules. In the senate party lines have been smashed on major issues, such as the tax bill, the world court, the leasing of Muscle Shoals, the proposed aluminum trust probe and the Woodcock appointment.

The party spirit and party discipline have gone the way of the dodo and other extinct animals. The situation in congress sustains organized labor's habit of halting the evils of partyism. Workers are now forming committees to expand the non-partisan spirit and to select men and women at the coming election who will fulfill this ideal.

With the adoption of labor's political program by the nation's highest officials, organized workers should remind fellow workers and every other citizen of the trend of the times.

Years ago the American Federation of Labor called upon workers to:

Stand faithfully by our friends and elect them. Oppose our enemies and defeat them whether they be candidates for office or whether they be executive, legislative or judicial.

That bugle call is again sounded. The day of partyism has passed.

### POSTAL BUREAUCRATS PROVE POOR GUESSERS

Washington, April 3.—Joseph Stewart, the postmaster general's executive secretary, made a bad guess when he told congress that the postal rate bill would raise only \$32,000,000. Linked up with the bill is a wage increase for postal employees which postal bureaucrats opposed.

Mr. Stewart had to acknowledge that his guess missed the mark by at least \$10,000,000 when he compiled with a senate query as to the amount of revenue raised by the new rate law.

Congressman Kelly charged the accuracy of the guess.

When the report was submitted by the postmaster general, "Congress did not blunder in passing the salary and rate bill," said Mr. Stewart. The department is shifting its estimates on the revenue-raising capacity of the measure.

In December it was stated that the bill would raise \$32,000,000. Now we are told it will raise \$42,000,000. In three years it will raise \$52,000,000. At this rate, it will be found that what congress was right.

"The big thing to note—and it is that the 1926 postal revenues will be \$74,000,000 in excess of those of 1925, and the service now is practically self-sustaining."

### WINE EXPLOSIONS CAN BE PREVENTED

Washington, April 3.—There is a "positive means of preventing" the "explosions and explosions," according to Scott Turner, director of the United States bureau of mines.

The bureau has conclusively proved that rock-dusting of bituminous mines is a sure remedy for these wide-sweeping explosions and explosions.

"By rock-dusting I mean the spreading of incombustible dust throughout a mine in sufficient quantity to cool and extinguish the flame of an incipient explosion."

It is not possible to keep all dust, continued Mr. Turner. "Some coal is inevitably reduced to dust in mining, blasting, loading and hauling, but much can be done to lessen the distribution and formation of the dust. The precautions include the use of water-sprays on the cutters of machines and spraying the tops of loaded cars. The most important precaution is to use tight caps and not build the coal high above their sides. This will prevent coal being spilled and ground to dust along the mine tracks and will keep dust from being blown off the tops of cars by the wind."

To make sure that dust is distributed and kept from being blown off the tops of cars by the wind, it is suggested that dust be distributed and kept from being blown off the tops of cars by the wind.

### ANTI-UNIONISTS THROW ASIDE GAUDY PROFIT SHARING PLAN

New York, April 3.—Profit sharing as an industrial panceacea, long the claim for employers, is being thrown aside by the committee of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The committee recommends a wave of profit-sharing sentiment among employers, but it is not the "company union," called "employee representation," which will result in definite economies and therefore increased profits, and which will divide with the workers the profit accruing directly from such efforts.

This system is based on the theory that workers are the "directed," while trade unionists believe that economies in production are possible when they are permitted to contribute their experience and knowledge.

This co-operation means organization of workers, something that the National Association of Manufacturers does not favor.

### SLAVE TRADE IN MEXICANS UNDER GUISE OF 'BONDING'

Marysville, Cal., April 3.—A well-organized scheme of cotton growers to ship Mexican laborers to California under the guise of "bonding" is being exposed by the state building trades convention.

The bonding plan, which is discussed publicly in the Imperial valleys where, the state official there, had already expressed "a woeful lack of camp sanitation."

Contract labor, he said, is now the rule in the cotton belt and Mexicans are paid from \$1.50 a day. They often live in the open field and roadways and are a constant prey to "man hunters" who draw them to the cities where they compete with American labor.

The bonding scheme is tied up with a measure before congress to amend the Immigration law. It permits the growers to bond Mexican laborers for the usual fee, to enter the United States for crop emergencies. The scheme, said Mr. Mathewson, in a meeting of growers, said that the rotten housing conditions and a glut in the labor market and is one of the first of other labor evils to expect when the coming of cotton in California.

"I say it was better to let cotton stay away from our valleys than to let it come here and be tolerated in California. One big cotton employer in Imperial valley recently defied all authority. In a meeting of growers, he said he would employ children if he were so inclined and that any state official who interfered had better come armed."

### GROUP INSURANCE ANTI-UNION LURE

Chicago, April 3.—Armour & Co., meat packers, announce a group insurance plan for their workers. This concern has promoted the company plan as a means of luring away from the trade union movement.

Armour & Co., state that total and permanent disability benefits under the new plan. The Federal Reserve Bank, which is the Federal of Labor, points out that this does not mean that the disabled worker need not work. The entire purpose of the plan is to create a permanent disability, but will only require the \$1,000 of the \$100,000 benefit, which is insured in so many monthly installments.

A recent pamphlet issued by the A. F. of L. shows that the "group insurance" as now practiced, is a device to lure workers away from the union. "Most of them believe that they have permanent disability," it says. "In fact, they are insured in so many monthly installments."

The purpose of this form of insurance is to lure workers away from the union by offering them a "group insurance" plan. "Most of them believe that they have permanent disability," it says. "In fact, they are insured in so many monthly installments."

### SAYS FUR WORKERS WEAR OUT QUICKLY

New York, April 3.—Fur workers on strike for shorter hours defend the "Why the Furriers Need the Forty-Hour Week" in the "New York Times." It is a pamphlet made by the Workers' Health Bureau, in which it is stated that under present conditions "workers wear out quickly."

Medical examinations by the city health department are quoted to prove the occupational strain on this industry.

"New York city is the richest fur center in the United States," the official summary of the report said. "Its fur production is valued at \$100,000,000 out of a total of \$198,000,000 for the entire country. This surplus is being built up at a tremendous cost of 12,000 fur workers now on strike against chaotic working conditions that sap their vitality and throw them on the scrap-heap in the prime of life."

"The seasonal nature of the industry throws one-half of the workers out of employment for three or four months. The outstanding hazards of the trade are dust and poisons. The air in fur stores is laden with harmful dust from animal skins which have been treated with arsenic and chemicals. Poisonous dyes used in the trade include arsenic and lead."

### WHEELER TRIAL COSTS DEMANDED BY SENATE

Washington, April 3.—By a vote of 61 to 13 the senate passed a resolution calling on the department of justice for an itemized report of expenditures in its prosecution of Senator Wheeler.

The government's case against the Montana lawmaker collapsed, but friends of the resolution claim that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended in the case.

Opponents of the resolution insisted on calling on the department of justice for an itemized report of expenditures in its prosecution of Senator Wheeler.

Senator Norris called attention to the cost of the case. "The government's case against the Montana lawmaker collapsed, but friends of the resolution claim that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended in the case."

### TEXTILE WORKERS ON STRIKE ONE YEAR

Williamette, Conn., April 3.—The strike of 2,500 employees of the American Thread company because of a wage reduction, which has lasted for more than a year. Many strikers have left this city, but 1,500 of these workers are as determined as on March 9, 1925, when they walked out. The strikers are being supported by the organized labor, and the need for this aid is at urgent.

The company is a subsidiary of the English, Sewing Cotton and Linen Company of England. The year prior to the strike it declared a 10 per cent dividend and also placed \$1,400,000 in its reserve fund out of profits.

The workers were accumulated when workers were employed but 180 days during the entire year.

The company is capitalized at \$15,000,000 and in the last year reported a total of \$13,000,000. It has paid more than 250 per cent in dividends during this period.

### 48-HOUR WEEK FOES CAN'T TRICK WOMEN

New York, April 3.—A questionnaire issued by the United Association of Industries to 3,500 working women of this city has surprised these women, according to a statement by the women's legislative committee.

The up-state women declared for the 48-hour week, which the employers oppose.

The women's legislative committee says this survey demonstrates the support advanced by the National Women's party that working women consider it a great privilege to be allowed to work 48 hours a week. The questionnaire insisted to prove that women oppose the 48-hour week, and more women are being won over to English, Italian and Polish, which emphasized unfairly and without basis the possibility of disease wages.

### NON-VOTING COST OUTLAWED BY COURT

Washington, April 3.—The issuance of non-voting stock by the Interstate Commerce Commission refusing the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railway to issue \$150,000,000 of this stock.

This paper is bought by the public under the impression that it carries the right to have a voice in management. Professor Ripley of the Harvard university recently attacked this system.

It is a small block of voting stock to themselves, and to sell non-voting stock to the general public. The insiders' control the corporation, while the public is deceived.

### ALABAMA'S CONVICT LEASE PLAN BRINGS LIREPUETE TO STATE

Birmingham, Ala., April 3.—The death of James Knox in the Flat Top prison near here, has created the biggest sensation in this state since Alabama entered the system of leasing prisoners to coal operators and other private interests.

Knox was convicted in Mobile county for a \$20,000 robbery. He died a few days after arrival at Flat Top prison. The death certificate stated that he died from biliary colic, a mercury laxative with suicidal intent. In a report to Governor Brandon, Attorney General Davis denied the suicide charge and includes this statement by Dr. Walter C. Jones of Birmingham-Southern college: "After death it seems that a discolored poison was injected artificially into his stomach through the natural passages."

### COMPENSATION BILL REPORTED TO HOUSE

Washington, April 3.—The Fitzgerald state-controlled workmen's compensation bill that would apply to all employees in the state is reported favorably to the house.

Albany, N. Y., April 3.—Oransted labor opposes the efforts of private contractors to secure the right to award licenses. This system tends to build up a monopoly of the work which the agencies demand a free hand.

### RETIREMENT FOES USE "ECONOMY" CRY

Washington, April 3.—Foes of a liberalized retirement system for federal employees are using the "economy" cry to defeat this proposal.

The law was enacted in 1920. Employees pay 2 1/2 per cent of their salary into the fund. The total is \$454,640. The law provides that actuals shall be paid to the present time of \$254,640. The law, but this is the first year that the retirement law is reported.

The retirement age for railway carriers is 62 years, for postal carriers it is 60 years, and for all other employees 70 years. If the retirement age is raised to 65, the retirement age and ask for increased annuities. The average annuity is \$254.64.

### FLIMSY CONSTRUCTION FAVORED IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, April 3.—The city council has passed an ordinance which permits the use of flimsy construction in the building of steel joist, welded, spaced foot-cot corners on class "B" buildings.

This requires no form work and replaces carpenters with Mexican labor. The safety feature is questioned by architects and the alleged flimsy construction will make a mockery of the city's fire and cheap labor. Building trades unions are protesting the law.

### LONG WAGE CONTEST MAY BE ADJUSTED

Washington, April 3.—Congress has approved a resolution which is intended to adjust the wage claims of Bethlehem steel company employees. The award carried was increased from more than \$1,000,000 to more than \$1,400,000 by the National Labor Board on July 31, 1918.

The last session of congress passed a bill to carry out the board's award. The bill was signed by President Wilson. A controversy arose between the department and the question of accounting. The resolution now passed by congress settles this dispute.

### VIOLATE LABOR LAWS

St. Louis, Mo., April 3.—Superior Judge Cook, in a decision rendered yesterday, held that a sentence of 15 days was imposed. Lehman was fined \$100 and 15 days in jail or pay a fine of \$100 for violating the compulsory contract insurance law.

### UNITED DRESSMAKERS

Chicago, April 3.—Bad working conditions in the city's dress industry drove the United Dressmakers' union to strike.

The committee includes a committee of 500 workers. The unionists say these more modest demands are cut without cause and piece prices are cut without cause. The unionists say these more modest demands are cut without cause and piece prices are cut without cause.

### MANY KILLED IN DELAWARE

Wilmington, Del., April 3.—The state board of health reported that 174 Delaware lives were lost last year by pneumonia. The economy was placed at \$1,000,000.

### APPOINT SALT BOARD

Newark, N. J., April 3.—Building a salt board in this city has been ordered by the state board of health. The board will be made weekly and often to assist in the enforcement of city laws.

### STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Jefferson City, Mo., April 3.—The annual convention of the Missouri Federation of Labor will convene in the state capital on May 24th.

Life is not measured by years, but by deeds.